

BATTLEFIELD TOURS USA, INC.

*presents the 1994*

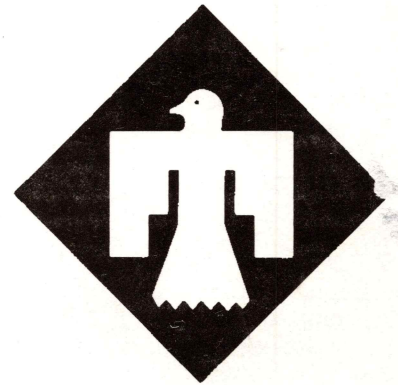
# 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION

## *Thunderbird*

50TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLEFIELD TOURS

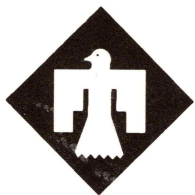
*Commemorating*

**"FIGHTING 45TH VICTORY CAMPAIGNS"**



- **SICILIAN BATTLEFIELDS**  
May 24, 1994 to June 1, 1994
- **SICILIAN & ITALIAN BATTLEFIELDS**  
May 24, 1994 to June 6, 1994
- **ITALIAN BATTLEFIELDS**  
May 30, 1994 to June 6, 1994
- **FRENCH & GERMAN BATTLEFIELDS**  
June 6, 1994 to June 16, 1994
- **ITALIAN, FRENCH & GERMAN BATTLEFIELDS**  
May 30, 1994 to June 16, 1994
- **BAVARIAN & AUSTRIAN ALPS**  
June 16, 1994 to June 20, 1994





**50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**45TH INFANTRY DIVISION BATTLEFIELD TOUR**  
**CELEBRATING THE**  
**"FIGHTING 45TH VICTORY CAMPAIGNS"**



**TOUR FEATURES**

1. Roundtrip airfare from nine different gateway cities in the U.S. is inclusive in the total tour price.
2. Late cancellations will be at no cost to participants for personal health reasons or for the need to take care of other family members who are ill, for the ground portion of the tour. Airfare refunds are dependent upon the specific airline restrictions of the ticket written.
3. A physician or licensed nurse will be in attendance on the tour.
4. Accommodations in carefully chosen superior tourist class hotels, twin bedded room with private bath.
5. Full American buffet breakfast is provided daily.
6. Baggage transfer and portorage are provided throughout the tour.
7. Professional European Battlefield Tour guide - English speaking.
8. Professional Tour Director - English speaking.
9. Modern, air-conditioned motor coach with toilet and refreshment facilities.
10. Gateway Cities: Los Angeles, St. Louis, Atlanta, Orlando, New York JFK, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, Tulsa.

**TOUR PRICES**

**(TOUR S) — SICILIAN BATTLEFIELDS**

**9 Days / 7 Nights • Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**40 Participants, \$2225 Per Person • 30 Participants, \$2295 Per Person • 20 Participants, \$2375 Per Person**  
**\$400 Deposit • \$350 Single Supplement**

**(TOUR I) — ITALIAN BATTLEFIELDS AND LIBERATION OF ROME**

**8 Days / 6 Nights • \$1995 Per Person Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**\$400 Deposit • \$300 Single Supplement • \$1545 Ground Only**

**(TOUR S & I) — SICILIAN AND ITALIAN BATTLEFIELDS**

**14 Days / 12 Nights • \$2995 Per Person Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**\$500.00 Deposit • \$500.00 Single Supplement • \$2475 Ground Only**

**(TOUR F & G) — FRENCH AND GERMAN BATTLEFIELDS**

**11 Days / 9 Nights • \$2595 Per Person Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**\$500.00 Deposit • \$400.00 Single Supplement • \$2045.00 Ground Only (Nice / Munich)**

**(TOUR I & F & G) — ITALIAN, FRENCH AND GERMAN BATTLEFIELDS**

**18 Days / 16 Nights • \$3485 Per Person Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**\$800 Deposit • \$650 Single Supplement • \$2985 Ground Only**

**(GRAND TOUR S & I & F & G) — SICILIAN, ITALIAN, FRENCH AND GERMAN BATTLEFIELDS**

**24 Days / 22 Nights • \$4495 Per Person Double Occupancy Inclusive of Airfare From One of Eleven U.S. Gateway Cities**  
**\$800 Deposit • \$950 Single Supplement • \$3995 Ground Only**

**(TOUR B) — BAVARIAN AND AUSTRIAN ALPS EXTENSION TO TOUR F & G**

**5 Days / 4 Nights • \$595 Per Person Double Occupancy**  
**\$150 Deposit • \$200 Single Supplement**

**There is a \$150.00 surcharge required by international airlines for European stays of greater than 21 days.**  
**Battlefield Tours USA will work to find a suitable roommate for those who are traveling alone and desire double occupancy.**

Battlefield Tours USA, Inc. assumes full responsibility for the performance of the Society of the 45th Infantry Division 1994 Battlefield Tour. The 45th Infantry Division Association is not in any manner responsible for any liability which may arise in the performance of the tour or as a result of unforeseen events which may occur while the tour is in progress.



**RETURN TO  
VICTORY IN EUROPE WITH  
THE "THUNDERBIRD"  
50TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY  
TOUR WITH THE "FIGHTING  
45TH"  
INFANTRY DIVISION  
OKLAHOMA NATIONAL  
GUARD DIVISION**

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**TOUR S  
RETURN TO VICTORY  
IN SICILY IN 1994**

**Tour of 45th Infantry Division  
"ThunderBird" Battlegrounds  
in Sicily prior to  
main Italy Tour  
To Mark 51st Anniversary  
of "Thunderbird"  
Victory Campaign in Sicily  
July - August 1943**

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**Day 1**

**Tuesday, May 24, 1994**

**ALOFT**

In flight from US Air Gateways to Rome, Italy.

Dinner & Breakfast — En Route

**Day 2**

**Wednesday, May 25, 1994**

**RETURN TO THE  
BEACHES OF SICILY**

You will be greeted by our representatives at Rome International Airport and assisted in your transfer by local connecting flight to Sicily. In Sicily you will be welcomed and transferred by air conditioned deluxe coach to your hotel near Scoglitti and the 1943 landing beaches of Cent Force (45th Infantry Division). Balance of day at leisure for relaxation with welcoming banquet and tour orientation meeting in the evening.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast

**Day 3**

**Thursday, May 26, 1994**

**BEACHHEAD  
COMMEMORATION AND  
RETURN TO COMISO AND  
BISCARI AIRFIELDS PLUS  
OTHER BEACHHEAD  
BATTLEGROUND**

This morning there will be commemorative ceremonies and wreath laying at the memorials at the beaches where the 157th, 179th and 180th Regimental Combat Teams made their assault landings

on the morning of 10th July 1943 — the first US Forces to begin the Liberation of Europe. We remember the sad losses suffered through the many submerged rocks and sand banks which made it impossible for many of the landing craft to reach the beaches, and in particular we remember the 27 comrades of the 157th Regimental Combat Team who were lost when their two landing crafts capsized in heavy surf after hitting the rocks off Point Bracetto.

We also, on a lighter note, trace the spot where the Divisional payroll, some \$2 million in greenbacks, were dumped by the Navy offshore, and subsequently recovered and laid out to dry on the roof of the local Fascist Headquarters — a story which became the lead feature in "Yank" magazine.

After a pleasant alfresco lunch in the shade of an olive grove, our afternoon program takes us to the battlegrounds where the "Thunderbird" first began to win its magnificent battlefield reputation in the first days after the landings: Biazza Ridge where 45th Doughs and their paratroop comrades threw back the attacking tiger tanks and infantry of the Hermann Goering Division, and in doing so wrote one of the most heroic pages in US military annals, Ragusa, Vittoria, Comiso, and Biscari Airfields — this last being one of the toughest fights of the whole campaign. It was near here that Colonel Bill Schaefer was taken prisoner as 1st Battalion of the 180th Infantry was overrun blunting the counterattack of the Hermann Goering Division, which was then broken up and stopped by 3rd Battalion of the 157th.

After a day of stirring memories we return to our beach side hotel for dinner and overnight.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Scoglitti/Vittoria Area

**Day 4**

**Friday, May 27, 1994**

**RETURN TO CALTAGIRONE  
ROAD AND CALTANISSETTA**

Today we retrace the operations of the "Thunderbird" up to the Vizzini - Caltagirone Road in the days following the landings. Withdrawn from a strong position from which it could much more easily have taken

Granmichele and misguided interference of the British High Command, the Division returned briefly to the Gela Beachhead before being redeployed in the center of the island to storm Caltanissetta and begin the drive thru the mountains to reach the north coast and cut Sicily in two. We return to Caltanissetta which fell to the "Thunderbird" on July 18th 1943 where we will have a civic reception and dinner. Our overnight hotel is in central Sicily.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Central Sicily Caltanissetta Area

**Day 5**

**Saturday, May 28, 1994**

**THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS  
TO THE SEA AND BLOODY  
RIDGE**

Today we retrace the breakneck advance of the regiments of the "Thunderbird" in the days following the fall of Caltanissetta as they thrust to the north coast of the island around Termine Imerese and Campofelice (18-23 July 1943). After reaching the north coast east of Termine, the "Thunderbird" turned east to thrust along the north coast road of Sicily (Highway 113) towards Messina. Running straight into the crack German 29th Panzer Grenadier Division for a solid week (24-31 July 1943), we underwent the most savage fighting of the entire campaign. Our route today takes us through Cefalu to San Stefano and Mistretta. Our dinner and overnight hotel are near San Stefano, site of the Battle of "Bloody Ridge". There will be many powerful memories for us tonight.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
San Stefano / Bloody Ridge Area

**Day 6**

**Sunday, May 29, 1994**

**RETURN TO BLOODY RIDGE  
/ OR PALERMO & HISTORIC  
SITES**

We spend the whole of today retracing the battleground of "Bloody Ridge", the toughest fight of the whole Sicily campaign. For those who may not wish to spend the whole day in tracing the battle area, there is an opportunity to visit some of the beautiful beaches of the northern coast, to take a side trip to see some of the ancient Greek temples or to spend the day in Palermo, the capital city of



Sicily, with its remains of the many civilizations — Greek, Phoenician, Roman, Gothic, Saracen, Norman, and Spanish, which have flourished on this island over its long the colorful history — of which you and your comrades wrote the key chapter in this century!

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
San Stefano / Bloody Ridge Area

#### **Day 7**

**Monday, May 30, 1994**

#### **RETURN TO MESSINA AND VICTORY IN SICILY**

Today we continue along the north coast of Sicily to Messina, the objective of the 1943 campaign. Withdrawn into Corps Reserve after the "Bloody Ridge" battle, before the "Thunderbird" departed it was visited by General Patton, who paid the division a famous tribute: "I hope you know how good you are," he said. "For everyone else does. You are magnificent." It was at General Patton's insistence that elements of the "Thunderbird" were used in the final thrust on Messina. We pause today at Midazzo where on August 15, 1943 Combat Team 157 — the 157th Infantry Regiment, 158th Field Artillery Battalion, plus attached units made an amphibious end-run — only to find that the Germans had already abandoned their positions. We take part in an act of remembrance and tribute to the 21 men of Combat Team 157 who died when their LCV snapped its cables during the unloading operations. We then continue into Messina. Because of the tremendous fighting reputation the "Thunderbird" had established for itself in Sicily, General Patton insisted on the presence of elements of the Division in the final thrust into Messina. It was in fact a platoon of B Company of 1st Battalion 157th Infantry (Platoon Commander Captain Frank Glasgow, Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Preston J.C. Murphy) who were the first allied troops to enter Messina at dawn on August 17th, 1943, just four hours after the final enemy evacuation, thus bringing the campaign in Sicily to a victorious conclusion.

After a tour of the city with civic representatives, where will be a dinner of honor in Messina tonight at which we will be joined by members of the Third Infantry

Division — Blue and White Devils — also making a 50th Anniversary Pilgrimage — for a 50th Anniversary Victory Banquet. Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Messina

#### **Day 8**

**Tuesday, May 31, 1994**

#### **MESSINA - PAESTUM**

This morning we leave Sicily and make the short crossing of the Straits of Messina. Our air-conditioned coach then proceeds to Paestum where the 179th and 157th Infantry landed in the Salerno Beachhead on September 10th, 1943, and where our main Italian Battlefields Tour begins tonight with a dinner and tour orientation at which we will meet up with "Thunderbird" members and their families and friends who have arrived today for the main tour. En route to Paestum / Salerno today we will have sightseeing en route of several beautiful Italian towns and magnificent coastal scenery, and if time permits, a visit to famous Pompeii, buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Paestum / Salerno Area

#### **Day 9**

**Wednesday, June 1, 1994**

#### **PAESTUM - NAPLES - USA**

For any tour members not wishing to continue with the Italy / France / Germany portions of the tour, arrangements can be made to return home from Naples.

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### **TOUR I RETURN TO VICTORY IN ITALY WITH THE "THUNDERBIRD" GRAND TOUR OF 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION BATTLEFIELDS TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EPIC OF ANZIO AND THE FALL OF ROME**

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**Italian Battlefields / Anzio /  
Liberation of Rome**

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**Monday, May 30, 1994**

#### **ALOFT**

Departure for Rome aboard scheduled TransAtlantic Flight from US Gateway Cities. Dinner & Breakfast — Enroute

**Tuesday, May 31, 1994**

#### **RETURN TO PAESTUM AND SALERNO BEACHHEAD**

Arrive at Rome's International Fiumicino Airport this morning to be greeted by your Battlefield Tours (USA) Representatives and Tour Guides. Your air-conditioned luxury coach transports you to Paestum, where on September 10th, 1943, 179th and 157th Infantry Regiments of the 45th "Thunderbird" Infantry Division came ashore into the bloody battle of the Salerno Beachhead. Enroute to Paestum and the beautiful Amalfi Coast of the Gulf of Naples, we'll make a stop at Pompeii. This ancient city was completely engulfed by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD and, excavated virtually intact centuries later, is now probably the world's most famous archaeological site. We will proceed to our hotel very close to the 45th Division landing beaches in the Gulf of Paestum. The balance of the day is free to relax and adjust to the time zone change. An optional visit to the island of Capri can be arranged. In the evening there will be a grand gala banquet of welcome and tour orientation at our hotel. Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Paestum Area

**Wednesday, June 1, 1994**

#### **FROM PAESTUM TO CASSINO**

We begin today by visiting the locations within the Salerno Beachhead where the 179th and 157th fought in the desperate week of fighting September 10-17, 1943 to stabilize the beachhead perimeter against the desperate attempts by the Germans to throw the allied invasion forces back into the sea.

We then continue to Persano, Eboli and Campagna where on September 19, 1943 the "Thunderbird" liberated the concentration camp at Campagna after overcoming stiff resistance in the area. From Campagna we drive on to Oliveto and Quaglietta, where on September 24, 1943 the "Thunderbird" broke the bitterly fought German defenses. We then carry on to San Angelo de Lombardi and thence to Benevento on the River Calore, taken by the Division on October 3rd, 1943, as driving fall



rains and mud began to impose an added ordeal to the experience of our GIs in Italy. That campaign was certainly not our idea of "The Soft UnderBelly"!

From Benevento we pass on northwards through Alife and Piedimonte D'Alife where the "Thunderbird" saw very heavy fighting in the October mud and on to the Volturno River which was crossed with such heroic devotion and the town of Cesto Campagno, held against bitter German counter attacks in the opening day of November, 1943.

In all these Italian battle-grounds of the "Thunderbird" visited today, we will take time to pause, reflect and remember. We particularly hope that Tour Members will share their individual recollections of places and incidents from 1943-44. Wherever possible, we will make time to get to that special corner or field that holds a particular memory for you, the individual tour member.

From the Volturno River we pass through Venafrò to arrive at Cassino, the Bastion of the 1943-44 Winter Line, against which the allied armies battered in vain for five months. It was here that the Division was relieved on January 9th, 1944 after being in continuous combat since November 1st, and in combat with the enemy for 110 of the 121 days that had elapsed since landing in Italy. During that time it had fought no fewer than eight German Divisions in combat and captured nearly 1000 prisoners.

Our dinner and overnight hotel tonight are near Cassino.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Cassino

#### **Thursday, June 2, 1994 RETURN TO ANZIO**

This morning, before driving on to Anzio, we view the great Abbey at Cassino, perhaps the most famous monastery in the world. The monastery, founded by St Benedict fourteen centuries ago, has been completely rebuilt after its destruction by allied bombing on 15th February, 1944. Here in this place of peace and quiet, where prayer has been offered for fourteen hundred years, we can take time to reflect on the terrible human and physical cost of war.

From Cassino we drive on

directly to Anzio. After its withdrawal from its positions near Venafrò the 45th Division was assigned to VI Corps. 179th Infantry landed at Anzio with the assault forces on January 22nd, to be joined by the rest of the Division on January 28th-29th. The "Thunderbird" Division was the only reserve in the Anzio Beachhead, sent in anticipation of the massive German counter attack which "Ultra" — the top secret allied code breaking effort — had revealed to the allied high command was now imminent.

The great German counter attack came in February and on February 11th, the 45th was thrown into battle to support the sagging line of British 1st Division, on the point of breaking. Over the next 10 days, the "Thunderbird" wrote one of the epic chapters in American military history. As the Nazis launched their furious attack to split the beachhead along the axis of the Anzio - Albano Road, with the factory at Corrocceto as the focal point of their thrust, the "Thunderbird" had no fewer than seven enemy divisions thrown against its lines, with Luftwaffe support the heaviest of the Italian campaign. In four days the Germans gained only two miles, and by February 19th their attack was crushed, after appalling losses on both sides. The tenacity and devotion of the 45th Infantry Division saved the Anzio Beachhead.

This evening we will visit the Museum of the Allied Landings at Anzio for a special reception and ceremony to honor returning US veterans followed by a banquet with American and Italian military and civic representatives.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Anzio

#### **Friday, June 3, 1994 ANZIO CEREMONIES AND BEACHHEAD COMMEMORATION**

The story of the Anzio Beachhead is a page in American and European history which will never be forgotten by those who served through that crucial period. We begin our pilgrimage today with solemn ceremonies at the United States Military Cemetery at Nettuno. Every grave of a fallen comrade of the 45th Infantry

Division will be flagged and honored today, and there will be ample time to visit and to honor individual graves and to reflect on the deep memories and feelings which 45th Division veterans and their families will have at this place on this day. We then come together for a solemn act of dedication and remembrance, and the laying of wreaths to honor our fallen comrades, followed by the sounding of "Taps".

The balance of today will be spent tracing the battle positions of the 45th Infantry Division within the Anzio Beachhead, in particular the area around Corrocceto and the Factory where the "Thunderbird" smashed the massed German counter attacks of February, and the front line positions and areas further back within the beachhead in which the Division dug in and went underground during the long stalemate that lasted until the break out towards the end of May, 1944, after a siege of 125 days.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Anzio

**Saturday, June 4, 1994  
VICTORY IN ROME  
ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES**  
Today, 4th June, is the 50th anniversary of the triumphant entry into Rome of the allied forces. Today, we will retrace the advance of the 45th Infantry Division as it broke out of the Beachhead at Carano on May 23rd, 1944 and began the victorious advance on Rome that led it through Campaleone and across the river Tiber on June 4th, 1944, outflanking Rome to the south and continuing the northwards pursuit of the broken and fleeing German forces.

Arriving in Rome for lunch, we will participate this afternoon in the full program of ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Rome. Details of these will be made known as soon as they are finalized.

Dinner in our Rome hotel this evening will be followed by an optional evening tour of the floodlit sights of the city, such as the floodlit Forum and the capitol, the Trevi Fountain and the many great churches, including St Peters.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Rome

#### **Sunday, June 5, 1994 THE GLORIES OF ROME**



Today will be spent visiting the many famous sights of Rome in the including St Peters Basilica (with optional tour of the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel, recently restored to its brilliant original colors), the Colosseum, the Forum, the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, and many other famous locations. There will be time for shopping in the afternoon and the evening will be free at leisure.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Rome

**Monday, June 6, 1994**  
**RETURN TO USA OR**  
**ROME / FLORENCE**

For those tour members completing at this point, there will be escorted transfer and assisted check in at Rome Fiumicino International Airport.

Those continuing on with the France and Germany battlegrounds of the 45th Division portion of the tour will travel this morning by deluxe coach to Florence where a city tour of this great treasure house of art and architecture is planned for this afternoon.

Bed & Breakfast — Florence

**Tuesday, June 7, 1994**  
**FLORENCE TO ST. RAPHAEL**

Today, we travel to the landing beaches of the "Thunderbird" Division in August, 1944 on the French Riviera by way of Pisa where we make a stop to view the famous Leaning Tower and the Baptistery. Our route takes us through some of the most beautiful areas of the Italian Riviera. On arrival on the French Riviera at St Raphael we will be joined by 45th Division comrades and their families and friends travelling from the United States for the French and German battlefields portion of the tour.

Bed & Breakfast — St Raphael / French Riviera

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**TOUR F-G**  
**RETURN TO VICTORY**  
**IN FRANCE AND GERMANY**  
**GRAND TOUR OF 45TH**  
**INFANTRY DIVISION**  
**BATTLEGROUND**

**To Mark 50th Anniversary**  
**of the "Thunderbird"**

**Victory Campaign in France**  
**and Germany**  
**August, 1944 to May, 1945**

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**Monday, June 6, 1994**

**ALOFT**

Departure for Europe by scheduled flight from US Gateway City.

Dinner & Breakfast — Enroute

**Tuesday, June 7, 1994**

**RETURN TO THE RIVIERA**

Following your arrival in Paris, a connecting flight will take you to Nice where your Battlefield Tours (USA) representatives will be waiting to greet you. A short transfer by deluxe air-conditioned coach brings you to your hotel at St Raphael close by the beaches of the French Riviera where the 45th Division came ashore on August 15th, 1944. You'll be joined here by those taking the Italian Battlefields and Anzio / Rome tour who will arrive this afternoon. The balance of the day is free for resting, sightseeing and shopping.

In the evening there will be a grand gala banquet of welcome for all tour members and a tour orientation.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
St Raphael / French Riviera

**Wednesday, June 8, 1994**  
**FROM RIVIERA LANDING**  
**BEACHES TO GRENOBLE**

This morning we will inspect the landing beaches where the Thunderbird came ashore on August 15th, 1944 — its fourth landing in the ETO. We will pay our respects to fallen comrades at the United States Military Cemetery at Draguignan, then follow the August, 1944 route of advance of the Division from St Maxime through Brignoles and Barjoles, Peyrolles, Forcalovier, Sisteron and Aspres sur Buech in Grenoble, which was turned over to the 45th Division after its capture by the 36th Infantry Division on August 23rd, 1944 after the first week of the South of France Campaign.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Grenoble

**Thursday, June 9, 1994**  
**FROM GRENOBLE TO**  
**EPINAL, AND THE**

**MOSELLE CROSSINGS**

Leaving Grenoble this morning, we continue to trace the route of advance of the "Thunderbird" in the last breakneck week of August, 1944. We pass through La Tour Du Pin, to Meximieux. Here on September 1st, 1944, the 179th Infantry Regiment battled for the town, and then held it against fanatical German counter attacks, knocking out eight enemy heavy tanks and inflicting severe casualties. We return to Meximieux to reflect and remember at the scenes of these actions, and also visit L'Agnieu and Pont D'Ain on the routes of advance of the other infantry regiments. We then continue through Bourg, Lons-Le-Saunier, Poligny, and Besancon, plus other key locations on the Division's route of advance.

On September 18th, 1944, the Thunderbird was relieved and reassembled west of Vesoul for the big attack across the Moselle River at Epinal. We stay tonight in Epinal where we shall be joined for dinner tonight by representatives of American monuments Commission, of French military organizations, and representatives of the various villages and towns in this part of France liberated by the 45th Infantry Division in its 1944 victory campaign.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Epinal

**Friday, June 10, 1994**  
**EPINAL CEREMONIES /**  
**MOSELLE CROSSINGS /**  
**VOSGES / MAGINOT LINE**

We begin our tour of Thunderbird battlegrounds today by visiting the locations around Epinal where on September 22nd, 1944, 179th and 157th Infantry Regiments made their assault crossings of the Moselle River, followed on September 23rd by the 180th Infantry crossing against murderous enemy fire.

Having visited the key locations of the Moselle Crossings, we assemble at the great United States Military Cemetery at Epinal for a solemn act of remembrance and dedication. As at Anzio, every grave of a 45th Infantry Division comrade will be individually flagged in honor of our pilgrimage here. There will be a laying of wreaths and the sounding of "Taps", followed by



time to locate and visit individual resting places of Thunderbird comrades in quietness, and to reflect and remember here.

From Epinal we will continue to Rambevillers which fell to 1st Battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment on September 30th, 1944. From here we move on to Grandvillers cleared by 179th Infantry on October 2, 1944, after a savage all day fight. From here we continue to the Mortagne River to retrace the crossing places where on October 23g, 1944, the Division fought its way over the river to secure a foothold on the enemy positions in the Vosges Mountains. We spend the rest of the day retracing the Division's locations in November, 1944, travelling through the Vosges via Luneville and into the Strasbourg Plain where at the end of November, 1944, the 179th Infantry cracked the German resistance before Mutzig, one of the most heavily defended bastions of the Maginot Line.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Strasbourg

#### **Saturday, June 11, 1994**

##### **MAGINOT LINE / SIEGFRIED LINE / ALSACE COUNTER ATTACK**

This morning we take a brief tour of the great cathedral city of Strasbourg, today the seat of the European Parliament, before continuing on to Lembach and Wingen, and the other locations in the Maginot Line through which the Division fought in mid-December, 1944. We trace the defense lines on which the Thunderbird stood in the bitter defensive fighting along the German border in reaction to the German counter attack into the Alsace Plain and the Vosges in January, 1945. The Division gave ground until its front rested on the Moder River from Sarriensberg to Rothbach. February 17, 1945, the Division regrouped in the area of Luneville. We retrace the main battle areas of the "Thunderbird" in the bitter December and January battles of the 1944-45 winter today, before returning for a second night to the beautiful city of Strasbourg where you will be free at leisure this evening. There will be time to visit the famous Strasbourg Cathedral and other points of

interest. As Strasbourg has so many fine restaurants for dining out, a list of recommendations for good eating places near the hotel will be given out in advance. In this international meeting place, you will find English widely spoken nowadays — but in any case, your Battlefield Tours' guides will be on hand to assist.

Bed & Breakfast — Strasbourg

#### **Sunday, June 12, 1994**

We begin today by returning to the assembly area south of Sarreguemines where the Division readied for the big attack through the Siegfried Line Defenses which jumped off between Neunkirch and Rimling on March 15th, 1945. We trace the Siegfried Line Defenses through which the Division battered its way to Saarbrücken, Zweibrücken and Homburg, taken by the 179th Infantry Regiment March 17, 1945. We then follow the route of advance of the Thunderbird after cracking open the Siegfried Line, through Kaiserslautern to the Rhine, where the Division crossed over the mighty river on March 26, 1945 between Worms and Hamm.

We re-cross the river at the same location today, just as the Division did 49 years ago. A day of proud memories draws to a conclusion today as we cross over the river Main, south of Aschaffenberg. Crossing over the river here with four battalions of the three regiments abreast on March 28, 1945, the bloody, bitter battle of Aschaffenberg began the next day. This was to prove the Thunderbird's toughest fight in Germany. The fanatical last ditch Nazi defenders, with civilian participation, fought on until April 3rd, by which time the Thunderbird had killed a further 1500 Nazis and made prisoner at least 3000 more in the rubble of their city.

Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —  
Aschaffenberg

#### **Monday, June 13, 1994**

##### **RETURN TO NUREMBERG**

After tracing locations within Aschaffenberg this morning in which we fought during the bloody six days battle for the city, we follow the Thunderbird route of advance from Aschaffenberg to Nuremberg, passing through Brückenau and Bamberg — the key

industrial center which fell to the Division on April 14, 1945. The battle for Nuremberg began April 14/16, 1945h, as 45th Infantry and 3rd Infantry Division — teamed again as long before in Sicily — surrounded the city. The assault began the next day with the three regiments of the Division abreast. The prisoner of war count for the day reached an unprecedented high of 4869. But this city, the Shrine of the Nazi movement, where Hitler had held his infamous rallies, was certain to be the site of a fanatical stand by SS, Hitler youth and Nazi party members. The city was ringed with heavy Ack-Ack Batteries totalling over 150 guns, which were dug in behind massive earth ramparts, and which supported the defenders very effectively with their muzzles depressed to ground role. The city finally fell after three days of intense fighting.

We will lunch in Nuremberg today and have an escorted tour of the historic center of the ancient city, largely restored from its devastation of 1945, and containing some of Germany's most famous and beautiful buildings.

We will also visit the notorious Nazi party rally grounds and the great stadium where Hitler addressed millions of hysterical followers in the party rallies.

This evening is free for individual sightseeing and dining in Nuremberg.

Bed & Breakfast — Nuremberg

#### **Tuesday, June 14, 1994**

##### **RETURN TO DACHAU**

This morning we retrace the route of advance of the Division from Nuremberg to Ingolstadt on the Danube River which the Thunderbird crossed on April 27, 1945. We will take lunch today in Ingolstadt before continuing along the Division's 1945 route towards Munich.

On April 29, 1945, men of the 45th Infantry Division entered and liberated the frightful Nazi Concentration Camp of Dachau — the first of the Nazi horror camps to be set up by the Hitler regime 12 years before.

No one who took part in the freeing of Dachau will ever forget the scenes that met our eyes that day and over the following days as the survivors were succoured.



This afternoon, there will be a solemn act of remembrance at Dachau with a laying of wreaths in memory of the victims of the camp on behalf of the Division. This ceremony will be attended by representatives of the Camp Memorial Administration and the Concentration Camp Survivors Association and by other representatives.

We feel it is specially significant in view of current events in Europe that as many American veterans and their families and friends as possible should be at this ceremony to testify to what they saw with their own eyes in 1945, and to dedicate themselves, with representatives of today's generation to ensuring — that what happened here is never forgotten and that it is never to be allowed to happen again.

After this ceremony, we continue to our hotel in the center of Munich for our dinner and overnight stay.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Munich

### **Wednesday, June 15, 1944 RETURN TO MUNICH**

The great city of Munich fell with surprisingly little resistance to US Forces on April 30, 1945 — the day Hitler killed himself in his Berlin bunker. The regiments of the Thunderbird were well to the fore in the fighting for the city. A comprehensive city sightseeing tour of Munich today shows us why this is widely regarded as the finest of the larger German cities.

Amongst many other famous sites, we will see the royal palaces of Schloss Nymphenburg and the residents, the Marien Platz (the main town square of the old city, with its famous Glockenspiel) the many famous churches and museums, including the Deutsches Museum, Europe's largest Museum of Science and Engineering, and the magnificent Olympic Stadium and Olympic Park. We will trace places of particular memories from our occupation duty in 1945 — such as the sites of the former Nazi Party Headquarters and of the Court House where the Nazi leaders were tried at the Nuremburg Trials the following year.

There will be time this afternoon for shopping or individual sightseeing. In the evening, an optional visit to the famous

Hofbrauhaus Bierkeller can be arranged.

You are free to dine at the restaurant of your choice — a good selection to fit any taste or price will be indicated on the city tour.  
Bed & Breakfast — Munich

### **Thursday, June 16, 1944**

For those choosing not to make our four day extension to the Bavarian and Austrian Alps, our European tour draws to a close this morning with escorted transfer to the new Munich International Airport for return flights to US Gateway Cities, arriving back home later the same day.

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### **TOUR B 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION EUROPEAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY VICTORY TOUR EXTENSION**

### **BAVARIAN AND AUSTRIAN ALPS TOUR INCLUDING SALZBURG / "SOUND OF MUSIC" / BAVARIAN CASTLES / PASSION PLAY VILLAGE**

### **4 Days in Europe's Wonderland of Mountains and Palaces**

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### **Thursday, June 16, 1944**

Leaving Munich today, we travel south into the spectacular grandeur of the Bavarian Alps. Our first stop is the breath-takingly beautiful Pilgrimage Church of Die Wies, set in the midst of gorgeous flower-filled meadows in the shadow of the great Alpine Peaks. From here we continue to the village of Oberammergau, famed for its woodcarvings and as the site of the Passion Play, performed every 10 years over the last three and a half centuries.

In the afternoon, after lunch, we visit the castle of "Mad King" Ludwig — an incredible palace framed by the breath-taking mountains. In a vast grotto under the palace grounds is the king's private opera house, where performances of Wagner's Operas were staged around an underground lake. We continue on from here to our overnight hotel in the heart of the Bavarian Mountains.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast —

Bavarian Alps

### **Friday, June 17, 1944**

This morning we visit Berchtesgaden and the Obersalzberg, the spectacular mountain fortress on the German/Austrian border known for its magnificent panoramic views of both countries, and the favored retreat of kings, archbishops, and notoriously in the Twentieth Century, the site of Hitler's Eagles Nest, which we will visit.

From here we descend to cross the Austrian border into Salzburg, the beautiful city of Mozart and of "The Sound of Music" set in the glorious scenery of the Alps. We will have a panoramic tour of the city followed by free shopping time.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Salzburg

### **Saturday, June 18, 1944**

This morning is free to enjoy the many splendors and beauties of the lovely city of Salzburg. In the afternoon you may choose to take a special optional tour visiting the locations in the surrounding country side and villages and in the city itself where the much-loved movie "The Sound of Music" was made.  
Bed & Breakfast — Salzburg

### **Sunday, June 19, 1944**

Today, we return from Salzburg to Munich through the spectacular scenery of the Bavarian countryside, travelling by way of Chiemsee. Here we will take the ferry across the lake to visit the fairy tale island where the great of "Mad King" Ludwig's extra-ordinary fantasy palaces — the Palace of Herrenchiemsee — was constructed.

From Herrenchiemsee we continue into Munich where there will be time for last minute souvenir shopping and individual sightseeing before we gather this evening for a grand gala banquet of farewell to bid goodbye to our European hosts, and to look back in review over our 50th Anniversary Tour with a few well chosen toasts and speeches.  
Dinner, Bed & Breakfast — Munich

### **Monday, June 20, 1944**

Transfer to Munich International Airport this morning for escorted and assisted check-in on to return flights to US Gateway Cities, arriving home later the same day.



## **"CELEBRATE YOUR HISTORY"**

On June 4, 1994, the 45th Infantry Division will be honored in Rome at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Liberation of Rome. This military action marked the return of allied forces to an area annexed by the invading German army four years earlier.

The history of World War II has been chronicled repeatedly over the past half century in books and in movies. Now one can view footage almost continuously on cable television; however, modern media cannot capture the essence of what it was like to step into the action, to face the guns and explosives repeatedly, to wage assaults against a combat-experienced enemy who at most times occupied militarily superior defensive positions.

The American media is not likely to tell the story of the gallant 45th Division soldiers who stepped off into the guns of the enemy at Biazza Ridge, Biscari Airfields, "Bloody Ridge", Salerno, Cesto Campagno, Cassino, Anzio, Meximieux, Moselle River, Vosges Mountains, Mutzig, Operation Nordwind, Siegfried Line, Aschaffenberg, and Nuremburg. The media will never capture the true essence of combat in the rocky mountains of Sicily and Italy, the dense Vosges Forests, and the bitter cold of Alsace.

The media will not detail the accounts of nine Medal of Honor winners and thousands upon thousands of unnamed American heroes stepping off into machine gun and artillery fire at the cost of their lives.

The average young American or even the older "baby boomer" does not even know the story of the Sicilian Campaign or the Italian Campaign, the Vosges Mountains or Alsacian Campaign, and, furthermore, they do not appreciate that only American soldiers have stepped forward repeatedly at the cost of their lives to liberate foreign lands from invading armies.

Each of you will have the opportunity over the next two years to bring the story of the 45th Infantry Division in Europe to your local newspaper reporters and television station producers. Tell your stories and the stories of your comrades to newscasters. Be interviewed on television so that your efforts and the sacrifices of your Division in Europe will not be forgotten.

Battlefield Tours USA will carry 45th Infantry Division members and friends back to Europe May 24, 1994 to June 26, 1994 on a battlefield tour which will be historically relevant. You will have the opportunity to relive "on site" those bitter struggles for those costly pieces of ground unknown to most Americans, but paid for with American blood. Bring one of your grandchildren, a young American, with you to your European battlefields to share your footprints in American history.

For tour information, call Battlefield Tours USA at 1-800-578-2045 or 1-800-635-5018. We will profile special tour events in greater detail in subsequent mailings.

Don Lee Bradke, M.D.  
Battlefield Tours, USA  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



## PAYMENT PLAN

1. All Tour payments should be mailed to Battlefield Tours USA, Inc., Marketing Office, P.O. Box 720853, Oklahoma City, OK 73172-0853.
2. Tour participant must deposit \$400.00 or \$500.00 or \$800.00 with Tour application.
3. Tour price is fixed for 1994 and will not be changed.
4. \$100 discount in tour price for booking before September 1, 1993.
5. The balance of payment is due March 1, 1994.
6. Subject to space availability, late registration may be accepted with full payment for ground portion of Tour. The air fare portion will be higher due to late booking.
7. Cancellation Policy: If after the booking is confirmed, any client wishes to cancel the tour arrangement, notification must be made in writing to Battlefield Tours USA immediately. In the event of cancellation, the company must be compensated for the administrative costs incurred in processing the booking and for any loss which the company may incur from bookings made on behalf of the client. The following scale of cancellation charges is applied by the company.

Prior to 60 days	\$50.00 fee
60 to 30 days	25% of tour
29 to 7 days	60% of tour
Less than 7 days	100% of tour

No refunds can be made in respect of cancellations received by us on or after the date of departure. Insurance against cancellation can be obtained under the travel policy. If a participant, for any reason, has to return to the U.S. after the tour has started, no refund will be made.

The company can cancel any departure by giving written notice and refunding the full tour price.

No refunds will be made for unused portions of the tour. If

circumstances amounting to Force Majeure (for example war hostilities, blockade, weather conditions, labor conflicts, transport breakdowns, congestion, or any cause whatsoever) compels the company to modify or cancel holiday arrangements, the company will not be liable for any resulting loss, damage, or expense. If the tour is cancelled prior to the departure a full refund of monies paid will be given less reasonable expenses.

8. Optional Insurance: Trip cancellations or interruption, baggage loss or damage, accident and medical insurance is available at a modest charge. Each participant will receive full information prior to departure. Purchase of trip cancellation insurance is strongly advised.
9. Responsibility: The travel agencies and affiliated companies, namely Battlefield Tours USA, Inc. herein known as "sponsors", act only as agents for the various owners and contractors providing means of transportation and/or services and all tickets and coupons are issued subject to any and all terms and conditions under which such items are offered or provided. The issuance and/or acceptance of such tickets and/or coupons shall be deemed consistent to the express condition that (and all arrangements being made for tour participants are upon the express condition) sponsors shall not be, nor later become, liable or responsible in any way in connection with any means of transportation, or any other service, for any loss, injury or damage in respect of any person or property howsoever caused or arising, including delay or cancellation.

Airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances. The passage contract in use by these companies when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage.

### FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

**DON LEE BRADKE, M.D.**

**BATTLEFIELD TOURS USA, INC. • MARKETING OFFICE**

**11309 Shady Glen Road • Oklahoma City, OK 73162-3435**

**1-800-578-2045 • 1-405-720-7007 • FAX (405) 945-1315**

**FOR INFORMATION ON AIRLINE BOOKING CALL 1-800-635-5018**



Send your application and deposit check to:

**BATTLEFIELD TOURS USA, INC.**

**P.O. Box 720853**

**Oklahoma City, OK 73172-0853**

**45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR**

**"FIGHTING 45TH VICTORY CAMPAIGNS"**

Name

Address

City  State  Zip

Phone  Departing City/Airport

Credit Card #  Expiration Date

Rooming With  Unit Designation

Signature for Credit Card Authorization

Single Supplement  Smoking  Non-Smoking

Tour S <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$400 Per Person	Tour I <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$400 Per Person	Tour S-I <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$500 Per Person	Tour F-G <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$500 Per Person
Tour I-F-G <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$800 Per Person	Tour S-I-F-G <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$800 Per Person	Tour B Extension <input type="checkbox"/> Deposit \$150 Per Person	